

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 INT-05 SCCT-01

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R 092355Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 913

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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EO 11762: NA

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SUBJECT: SITUATION IN LIMA AS OF MORNING JULY 9

REF: LIMA 6303

PRIOR TO THIS AFTERNOON'S FLURRY OF RUMORS AND REPORTS
OF MILITARY ACTIVITY AND GOVERNMENT CHANGES REPORTED REFTEL
THE FOLLOWING WAS EMBASSY'S VIEW OF SITUATION IN LIMA AND OF
UPCOMING PROBLEM AS WE THEN SAW THEM.

1. MINISTER OF NAVY PARODI AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR CISNEROS
ANSWERED REPORTERS' ULLY 8 QUERIES ON WHETHER THE CURFEW WOULD
SOON BE LIFTED. THEIR REPLIES INDICATE TO US CONTINUING
PROBLEMS. ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS ACCOUNT, PARODI STATED
THAT THE CURFEW MIGHT BE LIFTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT HE
IS QUOTED ELSEWHERE AS STATING SOMEWHAT ENIGMATICALLY THAT "THE
JUNTA WILL DECIDE..AS CONDITIONS IMPROVE SO DO POSSIBILITIES
FOR ENDING THE CURFEW". INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS TOLD REPORTERS
THAT THE CURFEW DECISION COULD ONLY BE MADE BY THE ARMED FORCES
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JOINT COMMAND. AS FOR THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND SUSPENSION

OF PERSONAL GUARANTEES, CISNEROS TERSELY NOTED THAT THE
"GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE".

2. PERUVIAN AND FOREIGN PRESS SOURCES HAVE TOLD EMBASSY THAT
PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ AND INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS ARE
WORKING TO CONVINCE CABINET AND MILITARY HIGH COMMAND TO ALLOW AT
LEAST SOME POLITICAL JOURNALS TO RE-OPEN. MEANWHILE, ENRIQUE ZILERI,
DIRECTOR OF PRESTIGIOUS MAGAZINE CARETAS, WHO WAS EXILED BY VELASCO
AND ONLY RECENTLY PERMITTED TO RETURN, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE IS MAKING
EVERY EFFORT TO PUBLISH THE NEW CARETAS BEFORE END OF JULY. HE
WOULD OPEN UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE GOP DECREE CLOSING
POLITICAL JOURNALS DOES NOT APPLY TO NEW PUBLICATIONS.
ZILERI PROMISED TO BE AGGRESSIVE BUT PRUDENT. HOWEVER, AN ADVISOR
TO PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO TOLD EMBOFF JULY 9 THAT
CARETAS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PUBLISH.

3. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WHICH
CONTINUES TO BE AFFECTED BY PROBLEMS OF SPECULATION, PRICE GOUGING
AND EXCESSIVE CONSUMER PURCHASES IN ANTICIPATION OF FUTURE
SHORTAGES, LIMA HAS MORE OR LESS RETURNED TO NORMAL. THE GOP,
HOWEVER, IS CERTAIN TO FACE PROBLEMS IN THE LABOR AREA.

4. IN ADDITION TO FAR-LEFT TEACHER UNION (SUTEP) WHICH MIGHT
ATTEMPT SOME DISRUPTION WHEN SCHOOLS RESUME JULY 12, THE EXTREME
LEFT MINERS FEDERATION IS ACTIVE. THE UNION AT SOUTHERN PERU
COPPER CORPORATION (SPCC) MINES AND INSTALLATIONS IS READY TO CALL
AN OPEN-ENDED STRIKE THERE, ALTHOUGH SPCC INFORMED US THAT POLICE
ARE PREVENTING UNION MEETINGS IN ORDER TO PREVENT A STRIKE
DECLARATION. GOP AND PRESS SOURCES TOLD EMBASSY THAT WORKERS AT THE
STATE-OWNED CENTROMIN MINES HAVE COMMANDEERED TRUCKS, PERIODICALLY
BLOCKED ROADS AND SPORADICALLY CLASHED WITH POLICE. SOURCES CLAIM
THAT GOP HAS FORBIDDEN REPORTING ON EVENTS AT CENTROMIN WHICH COULD
LEAD TO FULL-SCALE STRIKE. SHOULD DAMAGING STRIKES BREAK OUT, THE
GOP IS EXPECTED TO REACT ENERGETICALLY. MINISTRY OF LABOR SOURCES
CLAIM THAT THE MINISTRY HAS PREPARED MODIFICATIONS OF LEGISLA-
TION ON JOB SECURITY PROVIDING FOR DISMISSAL OF WORKERS WHO
"ENGAGE IN AGITATION WHICH AFFECTS NATIONAL PRODUCTION".
MODIFICATIONS WOULD ALSO END JOB SECURITY FOR MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES
IN ORDER TO CLEAR OUT "DEAD WOOD" IN GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES.
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5. ALTHOUGH GOP SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE PLAYED ON THE THEME
THAT "IMPERIALISM AND THE CIA" COULD WELL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR
RECENT UNREST, THE CONTROLLED MEDIA HAVE GIVEN BROAD AND FAVORABLE
COVERAGE TO JUNE 15 STATEMENT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
LUERS BEFORE THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. MEDIA FOCUSED
ON LUERS' COMMENT THAT "WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE CUBAN

MILITARY ADVISORS OR COMMUNIST BASES IN PERU" AND ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S FEBRUARY STATEMENT OF SYMPATHY WITH "PERU'S STRUGGLE TO CREATE A SOCIAL DEMOCRACY".

6. POLICY DIVISIONS WITHIN THE GOP APPARENTLY CONTINUE. A POLITICAL SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF JULY 8 THAT PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ AND INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS ATTEMPTED TO CALL OFF JULY 9 MILITARY CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING THOSE KILLED IN 1932 UPRISING. APRA HAD CANCELLED ITS JULY 7 COMMEMORATION OF THE EVENTS AND MORALES BERMUDEZ ALLEGEDLY WISHED TO RETURN THE GESTURE. HOWEVER, FERNANDEZ MALDONADO ALLEGEDLY REFUSED TO GO ALONG, AND IN HIS CAPACITY AS WAR MINISTER WAS SAID TO HAVE CARRIED THE DAY BY CONTENDING THAT THE MEMORIAL CEREMONY WAS STRICTLY MILITARY IN NATURE. SINCE THE ARMY RATHER THAN THE GOP WAS INVOLVED, HE, NOT THE PRESIDENT, SHOULD DECIDE THIS ISSUE.
DEAN

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